adapted to analyze the obtained digital images and compare each of said obtained digital images with reference image data representative of an optimum image, said central processing unit being further adapted to create batches of digital images from the multiple customer orders, the digital images in each batch having similar identification data such that a batch of digital images may include digital images from different customer orders, said central processing unit being further adapted to determine an output sequence for each of said obtained digital images to said image output devices based on at least the associated identification data; and

a finishing arrangement which is adapted to combine the digital image products from said image output devices with a related original order from said original orders using the associated identification data.

29. (Twice Amended) A photofininishing method for managing workflow in a photofinishing lab, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving images at the photofinishing lab, said images being received from multiple customer orders;

associating each image with identification data;

sending each image and its associated identification data to a processing unit, the processing unit analyzing said image with reference to image data representative of an optimum image and creating batches of digital images from said multiple customer orders, the images in each batch having similar identification data, such that a batch of images may include images from different customer orders, said processing unit further determining an output sequence of each of said images to output devices based on at least the associated identification data;

providing an image product based on the image at an output device of said output devices which is appropriate for the image product; and

combining the image product from the output device with a related original order from said original orders using the associated identification data.

33. (Twice Amended) A computer program product comprising:

a computer readable storage medium having a computer program thereon which when loaded into a computer causes the computer to manage workflow in a photofinishing lab by performing the following steps:

associating images received at the photofinishing lab with identification data, the images being received from multiple customer orders;

sending each image and its associated identification data to a processing unit, the processing unit creating batches of digital images from said multiple customer orders, the images in each batch having similar identification data, such that a batch of images may include images from different customer orders, said processing unit further determining an output sequence of each of said images to output devices based on at least the associated identification data;

providing an image product based on the image at an output device of said output devices which is appropriate for the image product; and

combining the image product from the output device with a related original order from said original orders using the associated identification data;

wherein said identification data is product/service data indicative of a type of image product for the image, such that the images are modified in accordance with the product/service data and the output device to which the image is to be sent.